

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 SAB-01 EB-11 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /160 W
----- 034137

R 070600Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3963

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, YE, US

SUBJ: YEMENIS CRITICIZE SCALE OF US ASSISTANCE.

REF: SANAA 1288

1. SUMMARY: YEMENIS ARE COMPLAINING THAT US IS TENDING TAKE YEMEN FOR GRANTED. AS FIRST ARAB COUNTRY TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH US FOLLOWING 1967, AND DESPERATELY NEEDY, IT IS FELT THAT THE YEMEN DESERVES BETTER. GENEROUS PROSPECTIVE US ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AND SYRIA IS BEING CITED BY CONTRAST. WE THINK YEMENIS HAVE A POINT AND RECOMMEND A MORE LIBERAL USG APPROACH TO ENCOMPASS AT LEAST ONE LABOR INTENSIVE, IMPACT AID PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL REPORTS COMPLAINT BY NEW YARG PRIMIN/FONMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI REGARDING MAGNITUDE OF US ASSISTANCE AND LACK OF PROJECTS WITH BROAD IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION.

3. AL-AYNI IS OPPORTUNISTIC AND NOT BASICALLY FRIENDLY TO US. BUT HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS BEEN COMPLAIN-

ING. IN DAYS BEFORE JUNE 13 TAKE-OVER BY MILITARY, WE
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HAD RECEIVED AND BEEN ABOUT TO REPORT APPROACHES ON THIS

SCORE BY THE THEN PRIMIN MAKKI, FONMIN ASNAG, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MUHAMMAD NU'MAN AND CHIEF OF STAFF MASWARI. THEIR COMMON ARGUMENT WAS THAT US UNDOUBTEDLY DOING USEFUL THINGS IN YEMEN. YARG AWARE OF THIS BUT THERE VERY LITTLE YEMENI PEOPLE CAN SEE. YEMENIS DISAPPOINTED THAT THEIR FRIENDSHIP UNRECOGNIZED AND/OR TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY US. IT WAS YEMEN WHICH TWO YEARS AGO BROKE THE ARAB MOLD AND TOOK INITIATIVE IN RESUMING RELATIONS WITH US. SYRIA, A COUNTRY LESS POPULOUS THAN YEMEN AND ONE WHICH HAS CAUSED THE US MANY PROBLEMS, NOW APPARENTLY PROMISED DOLS 100 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE WHILE USAID PROGRAM IN YEMEN FUNDED AT DOLS 2 MILLION OR LESS.

4. I THINK OUR YEMENIS FRIENDS HAVE A POINT. THEY HAVE WEALTHY NEIGHBORS AND SHOULD BE RELYING PRIMARILY ON THESE FOR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE. US PROGRAMS, WHILE TECHNICALLY SOUND AND BENEFICIAL, LACK PUBLIC IMPACT. IN PARTICULAR, WE HAVE NONE OF THE KIND OF LABOR INTENSIVE PROJECT TO WHICH CONGRESS ATTACHES IMPORTANCE.

5. IN THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT MY EARLIER STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DEVELOPMENT GRANT MONEY BE FOUND FOR YEMEN, PERHAPS OUT OF PROSPECTIVE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR MIDDLE EAST. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT TAIZ WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT TO WHICH US GOOD NAME HAS ALWAYS BEEN ATTACHED, SHOULD BE FINANCED BY US GRANT--NOT LOAN--ESPECIALLY GIVEN IBRD/IMF RECOMMENDATIONS AGAINST YARG INCREASING ITS LOAN BURDEN. SINCE WE DO WELL IN WATER PROJECTS AND ALREADY HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION IN YEMEN FOR THESE, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE US UNDERTAKE ON GRANT BASIS CONSTRUCTION OF LABOR INTENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECTS IN HODEIDA AND IN SOME OF KEY CITIES OF INTERMEDIATE SIZE WHERE COSTS WOULD BE MODERATE SUCH AS IBB, DHAMMAR, YERIM AND SA'ADA. RURAL WATER PROJECT IN AMRAN VALLEY NORTH OF SANAA SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

6. AS A RELATED MATTER WE RECOMMEND US ALSO EXPLORE WITH IBRD WAYS IN WHICH SEWERAGE SYSTEM COULD BE ADDED TO ITS WATER PROJECT FOR SANAA. WE ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT DANGER TO PUBLIC HEALTH INHERENT IN PROVIDING WATER
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WITHOUT SEWERAGE.
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Message Attributes

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